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21 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

SUBJECT: Progress Report Ad Hoc IAC Committee
(Watch)

REFERENCE: Your memorandum to the undersigned
dated 19 May 1954, subject as above

1. In referenced memorandum you evidence your concern at the wording of the Preamble of subject report as set forth in the attachment to IAC-D-6/1 (Revised), dated 26 April 1954.

2. May I call your attention to the following documents which I believe will be instructive in that they represent the subsequent actions taken by the IAC respecting the document you have questioned:

a. IAC-M-150, dated 4 May 1954, paragraphs 2-6, inclusive. (This minute records the IAC action on and discussion of the document on which you have commented.)

b. IAC-D-6/1 (Revised) Second Draft, dated 6 May 1954. (This document incorporates suggestions made by the IAC members at the 4 May meeting, the minutes of which are referenced above.)

c. DCID 1/2, "Terms of Reference, Watch Committee," which was approved by the DCI on 13 May 1954. (This Directive incorporates additional comments and suggestions made by the IAC agencies subsequent to issuance of the Second Draft referenced immediately above. You will note that DCID 1/2 incorporates modifications of the language the earlier version of which caused you concern.)

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3. The IAC first formed the ad hoc committee to review the Watch process on 6 October 1953 (IAC-M-124, paragraphs 3 and 4). At that time, the AD/CI was asked to call the first meeting, at which meeting he was selected Chairman. The IAC Secretary, although adequately informed by Mr. Sheldon's staff during the course of the ad hoc committee's deliberations, is nevertheless perhaps not sufficiently informed to permit him to respond adequately to your referenced memorandum. Insofar as you may wish to explore the matter further, I suggest that you consult Mr. Sheldon, whom I am providing a copy of this memorandum, as well as a copy of your referenced memorandum.

4. In view of the above, any statement I might make in response to your stated concern would be somewhat gratuitous. For what it is worth, I would like to say, however, that I do not fully share your belief as to the relationships between and responsibilities of the IAC, the DCI and the NSC. My trouble may be merely that your short statement in paragraph 2 of referenced memorandum means something different to me than it does to you. For example: I do accept that the IAC as a body, including the DCI as Chairman thereof, has a responsibility to the National Security Council. In part this responsibility is a literal one, enunciated in NSCID No. 1. In part it is an implied responsibility by virtue of the fact that the Statute enjoins the DCI to use "where appropriate existing agencies and facilities." In more important part, this responsibility is a factor of the leadership and direction provided the federal intelligence system (as represented in the IAC) by General Smith and Mr. Dulles. In this connection, I am afraid that my idea of the developing relationships and responsibilities of the IAC, the DCI and the NSC under the current leadership of Mr. Dulles and General Cabell does not square with any concept of exclusive responsibility of the DCI.

5. You will note in DCID 1/2, paragraph D 1, that the IAC has resolved the question of chairing the Watch Committee not by having the CIA representative serve as permanent Chairman but by having a designation "by the DCI, after consultation with the IAC," of a Chairman for a specific period. I should add that this solution was proposed by Mr. Dulles at the 4 May meeting.

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